

DRAFT

## APPENDIX F: LETTERS OF SUPPORT



MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Andreas Borgeas  
Councilmember, District 2  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Councilmember Borgeas:

I am pleased to announce my support for the San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative (SJRBPi). This much needed legislation is vital to ensuring and maintaining the public safety of the citizens of Fresno. As you have already mentioned, the San Joaquin River is a prized natural resource that requires a multi-jurisdictional effort in order to make it enjoyable and safe for all. While the SJRBPi is currently an initiative, it lays a solid foundation for future policy that will further our efforts in protecting our natural resources and our citizens.

I commend you for your work on this initiative and urge the Fresno City Council to support this much needed legislation.

Sincerely,

Ashley Swearengin  
Mayor

CITY OF FRESNO  
CITY HALL • 2600 FRESNO STREET • FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721-3600  
(559) 621-8000 • FAX (559) 621-7990 • [www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov)



## County of Fresno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUPERVISOR SUSAN B. ANDERSON – DISTRICT TWO

March 9, 2010

Councilmember Andreas Borgeas  
District 2  
2600 Fresno St.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Fresno CA 93721

Dear Councilmember Borgeas,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on multiple occasions regarding the San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative (SJRBP). I am pleased to offer my support of this much needed public safety ordinance and commend you and the *River Bluff Task Force* for creating a comprehensive initiative that will begin to address the complexities of law enforcement in the river bluff and bottom.

The San Joaquin River is a prized natural resource for all the citizens to enjoy and your initiative further enhances the public's ability to do so in a safe environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Anderson,  
Supervisor, District 2



## County of Fresno

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

**JOHN NAVARRETTE**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

March 4, 2010

Councilmember Andreas Borgeas  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-3600

RE: San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative (SJRBI)

Dear Councilmember Borgeas:

Further to my letter of February 11, 2010, I have been discussing the proposed initiative with County departments. As a result of their input, the County would like to pursue further discussions with the City on this topic.

We believe the proposal has merit and can provide mutual benefit for both the City and County. We look forward to the opportunity to work together to further develop the initiative's concepts.

Sincerely,

John Navarrette  
County Administrative Officer

Cc: Art Wille, County Counsel



**Randy R. Bruegman**  
**Fire Chief**

911 H Street  
Fresno, California 93721  
(559) 621-4199 FAX (559) 498-4261  
[www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov)

February 26, 2010

Andreas Borgeas, Councilmember  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Borgeas:

On July 2-4, 2009, the Fresno Fire Department experienced a significant wildland urban interface fire along the San Joaquin River, which extended to a housing development and caused approximately \$2 million in damage. The fire was of such magnitude and required most of the on-duty resources to be dispatched and deployed to the incident, as well as the utilization of resources from the North Central Fire Protection District and other surrounding fire protection providers. This forced the City to recall off-duty firefighters and the event lasted through July 4 when the final unit was released from the incident.

This was not the first time the City had experienced a major fire in this area. I commend you for the creation of an ad hoc task force to address the safety and environmental challenges, which are inherent to this particular area.

The department is in full support of this effort and looks forward to the continued work of the task force to resolve many of the issues, which lead to fires in this area, and will assist the fire department, if a fire occurs, to minimize the risk to the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

*Randy R. Bruegman*  
Randy R. Bruegman, Fire Chief

*"To protect and put service above all else."*





**NORTH CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**Board of Directors:** Ken Abrahamian • Cheryl Belluomini  
Rusty Nonini • Rusty Souza • Dennis Yates

**Fire Chief:** Randy R. Bruegman

15850 W. Kearney Boulevard  
Kerman, California 93630-9335  
(559) 621-4199 • FAX (559) 498-1070  
[www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov)

March 1, 2010

Andreas Borgeas, Councilmember  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Borgeas:

On February 25, 2010, the Board of Directors for the North Central Fire Protection District reviewed the San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative—a result of a fire, which occurred on July 2-4, 2009.

The Board commends you for the creation and the convening of an ad hoc task force to address the unique safety and environmental challenges inherent to the river bluff area. The fire started within the city of Fresno and went into a housing development, which is a county island protected by the North Central Fire Protection District via a contract with the City of Fresno. The fire caused approximately \$2 million in damage and required a significant number of resources from both the City of Fresno Fire Department and the North Central Fire Protection District. This is not the first fire of this magnitude in this area, and the initiatives outlined in the San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative, once implemented, should reduce the threat of another major incident.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this effort and looks forward to the continued work of making our natural resources safe and enjoyable for all.

Sincerely,

Dennis Yates, Chair  
North Central Fire Protection District

*"To protect and put service above all else."*



Mariposa Mall  
P.O. Box 1271  
Fresno, CA 93715-1271

Police Department

Jerry P. Dyer  
Chief of Police



March 9, 2010

Andreas Borgeas, Councilmember  
Fresno Council District #2  
City Council Office  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Councilmember Borgeas:

Please accept this letter as my support for the San Joaquin & River Bluff Protection Initiative (SJRBP). The San Joaquin River area poses a unique challenge in uniformity of law enforcement, and its current lack of regulations deters recreational enjoyment and encourages illegal activity.

By establishing a uniform ordinance that will address the many public safety issues found in the river area, relevant law enforcement agencies can ensure the river bluff and bottom can be enjoyed safely by all. Though this initiative only begins to address the multi-jurisdictional approach to regulating the San Joaquin river area, it does give law enforcement a better platform for enforcing regulations.

Thank you for leading the effort to create the San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative. I look forward to working with your office in the future to continue to provide for the safety of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry P. Dyer".

Jerry P. Dyer  
Chief of Police

JPD/pf/dbnw

*Professional, Effective, Timely*

City of



Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services

City Hall Annex  
2326 Fresno Street, Room 101  
Fresno, California 93721-1824  
(559) 621-2900 FAX (559) 498-1588  
[www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov)

Randall L. Cooper, PARCS Director

March 5, 2010

Councilmember Andreas Borgeas  
City of Fresno, District #2  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Letter of Support – San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative

Dear Mr. Borgeas:

On behalf of the Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services (PARCS) Department, I would like to express my support for the San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative.

As you know, the development and preservation of green space is an essential component of fostering healthy communities. The PARCS Department recognizes the San Joaquin River as a valuable natural resource for the citizens of Fresno to enjoy. Therefore, we applaud your efforts to create a uniform ordinance that will improve public stewardship and facilitate the enforcement of laws within the City's jurisdiction in the River Bluff area.

Our PARCS Department participated in the *River Bluff Task Force*, and I look forward to continue working with you and your staff as the initiative develops. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall L. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Randall L. Cooper  
PARCS Director





## Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce

2331 Fresno Street Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 495-4800 • Fax (559) 495-4811

February 24, 2010

Council Member Andreas Borgeas  
2600 Fresno Street  
City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Council Member Borgeas:

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Council is pleased to support the San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative. We feel this is a comprehensive initiative that will provide the oversight that's needed to protect the San Joaquin River Bluffs.

We appreciate the City putting together a uniform ordinance that will help to regulate activity and facilitate the enforcement of laws within the city's territory in the River Bluff area. We encourage other local agencies with oversight in this area to adopt similar ordinances so the entire area can be protected and enjoyed by all.

The Government Affairs Council appreciates the time you put into developing such a comprehensive and thorough ordinance. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to help in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kerri Ginis  
Government Affairs Manager for the Fresno Chamber of Commerce

February 4, 2010

Andreas Borgeas, Councilmember  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-3600

Dear Councilmember Borgeas:

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust endorses the San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative. Last week, Our Board of Directors reviewed the January 21, 2010 Draft Initiative and approved a resolution in support.

Along with the Trust's endorsement, we write to pass along our observation that it is critical for the County of Fresno to participate fully in the Initiative's implementation. The Trust will be sending a letter of request to the County in this regard.

Thank you for providing the leadership necessary to undertake this effort and bring the many jurisdictions and stakeholders involved together to find solutions to safety issues in the river corridor.

Sincerely,



Dave Koehler  
Executive Director

BOARD OF  
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Anna Wattenbarger  
*Vice President*

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Dowling, Aaron & Keeler  
Christopher A. Brown  
*General Counsel*

Dave Koehler  
*Executive Director*

**CREATING AND PROTECTING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY**

11605 Old Friant Road • Fresno, California 93730-9701 • 559-248-8480 • Fax 559-248-8474 • [www.riverparkway.org](http://www.riverparkway.org)



California Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>  
Law Enforcement Division  
Central Enforcement District  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor  
DONALD KOCH, Director



March 3, 2010

Andreas Borgeas, Councilmember  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, California 93721-3600

Dear Councilmember Borgeas:

The California Department of Fish and Game is pleased to support the San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative. It is the mission of the Department of Fish and Game, Law Enforcement Division to protect California's natural resources and provide public safety through effective and responsive law enforcement. This initiative is a perfect example of the mission our officers perform everyday.

It is imperative that all allied agencies uniformly enforce and educate the public regarding your ordinance to enhance the river and bluff areas of the San Joaquin River. All enforcement agencies should do this, while allowing legal resource and recreational users the opportunity to partake in activities along the river. The Department of Fish and Game is privileged and looking forward to assisting and educating other law enforcement agencies in protecting the natural resources of this area.

Thank you for the leadership in developing such a comprehensive ordinance and undertaking the challenge to bring agencies together to ensure consistent education and enforcement actions are taking place. I am confident that together we can ensure the natural resources of this area will be protected for the recreational use of future generations.

Respectfully,

John C. Baker  
Assistant Chief  
Central Enforcement District

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

*Guardians of our Wildlife Heritage... A Proud Tradition of Wildlife Law Enforcement*

**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY  
RESOLUTION 10-01**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF FRESNO'S  
RIVER AND BLUFF PROTECTION INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin River and its environs are treasured natural resources that require protection and preservation for the enjoyment of the public and quality of life in Fresno and Madera communities; and

WHEREAS, the river, its floodplain and bluffs face special challenges for safeguarding the public, water resources, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno has convened a River and Bluff Protection Task Force, composed of city departments, state and local agencies, and other stakeholders, for the purpose of determining measures that can be taken to reduce fire hazards, public nuisances, and habitat damage, protect bluff stability, and improve the effectiveness of policing, while allowing lawful public access and safe recreation on the river, within the City of Fresno's jurisdiction and across multiple jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City's River and Bluff Protection Initiative proposes City regulations for proper public use along the river and improved fire prevention, and includes a workplan to develop public safety partnerships, identify and manage public river access points, and expand neighborhood and community stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin River Conservancy is a regionally governed state agency formed to implement and manage the San Joaquin River Parkway, a planned natural and recreation area in the river-bottom extending from Friant Dam to Highway 99; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy's mission includes managing Parkway lands it acquires for public enjoyment, and protecting, enhancing, and restoring riparian and floodplain habitat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the San Joaquin River Conservancy supports and endorses the River and Bluff Protection Initiative, and commits to working with the City of Fresno as the City and the Conservancy develop public safety and natural resources protection regulations within their respective jurisdictions, and as they continue coordinating and collaborating with the many other state and local agencies with jurisdiction in the area.

Passed and adopted this day of February 10, 2010, by the governing board of the San Joaquin River Conservancy.



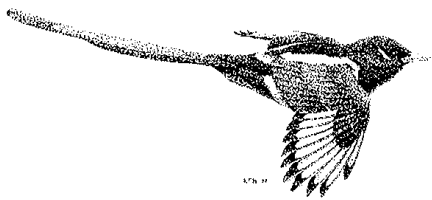
Susan B. Anderson  
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Melinda S. Marks  
Executive Officer





# Fresno Audubon Society


Dear Councilman Borgeas:

02/10/10

Thank you for including us in the review of the San Joaquin River Bluff Protection Initiative. As an organization of approximately 600 people in Fresno and Madera Counties who share a love for birds, other wildlife and the habitats that support them, we are keenly aware of the importance of the San Joaquin River. Considering that the River is critical for wildlife as well as the quality of life for the entire region, we welcome efforts to protect it and value this opportunity to provide input on this issue.

Our board cast a critical eye on the Initiative and could not find one reason to oppose it; we did, however, find many reasons to support it. The Initiative addresses a broad range of threats the River faces in a manner which is not burdensome to property owners residing along the River or those who recreate along the San Joaquin. We welcome the new rules with respect to littering, camping, vehicular use, and other activities. These justified rules will help ensure a safe and pleasant experience for those using the river while ensuring valuable habitat remains intact.

We hope the County of Fresno, Madera County, and relevant municipalities will take similar action and that you might encourage them to do so. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,   
Brandon Hill  
President  
Fresno Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9324 Fresno, CA 93791: 559.978.2369: [fresnoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:fresnoaudubon@gmail.com): [fresnoaudubon.org](http://fresnoaudubon.org)



**RiverTree Volunteers, Inc.**  
**1509 E. Fallbrook Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93720-2744**  
**(559) 696-2971**

**February 16, 2010**

**To Whom It Concerns,**

**RiverTree Volunteers supports the San Joaquin River & Bluff Protection Initiative. Our organization averages removing nine 40 cubic yard waste bins of trash and debris from the San Joaquin River bottom and bluffs each year. We have replaced several hundred vandalized signs, repaired fences, bridges and gates on public lands and helped to paint out or remove graffiti.**

**Since the forming of our organization March 10, 2003 we are finding that the types of vandalism occurring on the river bottom is becoming more destructive. The recreational use by the public has also dramatically increased. The need for the San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative grows greater by the day.**



**Richard F. Sloan**  
**President**


**Chuck Kroeger**  
**Operations**



**Lee Jensen**  
**Operations**



**Mark Somma**  
**Finance Officer**





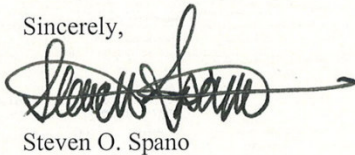
February 9, 2010

Andreas Borgeas  
City Hall  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Council Member Borgeas,

As a property owner on the San Joaquin River Bottom I understand the importance for an initiative that will improve public safety and protect the San Joaquin's Natural Resources. I would like to support your draft of the San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative. I believe this is a positive step for the future of the San Joaquin River Bottom.

Sincerely,



Steven O. Spano

February 16, 2010

Andreas Borgeas  
Council Member District 2  
2600 Fresno St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Councilman Borgeas:

The Fresno Flatwater Kayak and Canoe Club commends you on the development of The San Joaquin River and Bluff Protection Initiative.

We are a group of approximately 250 people, many members of which kayak the river frequently, viewing first-hand the vandalism and damages, and therefore understand the need for coordinated code enforcement. Though our focus is primarily recreational, we strive to be good stewards and work in conjunction with RiverTree Volunteers on their cleanups and river maintenance projects.

We thank you for your efforts in developing and promoting this proposal and wish to go on record as strongly supporting the initiative.

Looking forward to further developments and a better San Joaquin River.

Sincerely,

Lee Jensen  
Assistant Organizer



Jeff Pratt  
Trip Leader/Organizer

